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ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

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ANNUAL REPORT

NUMBER 5

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LIBRARY
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

100 QUEEN'S PARK, TORONTO 5, ONTARIO

Report of the Director of the Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology

Gallery work for 1954 is being kept to a minimum, owing to a shortage of staff, and to a lack of the money to carry it out. During the latter part of 1953 the Eskimo Gallery was replanned and largely completed in its new form. Other changes during the year 1953-4 have been on a smaller scale and have concerned individual cases or parts of galleries only. During the year the Superintendent has been able to carry out the first stage of a large plan of redecorating the Museum Galleries. A number of these on the main and ground floors have been completed, with very satisfactory results.

It was necessary at the beginning of the year to block off part of the Prehistoric Gallery in order to make space for study-storage rooms for the Near Eastern and Greek and Roman Departments, and for necessary general storage of objects and cases. Blocking off of gallery space for this purpose is a poor principle, but here there was no alternative. Except for the completion of the storage cabinets, this has now been finished. Plans for the total reorganization of the Prehistoric exhibit, itself, are now in process of preparation. That task, when completed, should remove the most serious and glaring eyesore of the Museum galleries.

There have been three special exhibitions during the year. The first was "West and East," the second part of the larger project begun two years ago with our "East and West" show. A Museum bulletin-catalogue was again published in connection with it. The second was of an important loan collection of early maps of the Great Lakes, lent for the occasion by Dr. A. E. MacDonald of Toronto. It was called "Sweet Water—Great Lakes 1522-1703." The summer exhibition for 1954 is entitled "Indonesia Today." It includes a large group of material, both photographic and in the form of objects, sent specially to the Museum by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. The "Object of the Month" policy has been continued during the year.

A small number of objects have been received on loan by the Museum, all for special and temporary purposes. Objects were lent by us to the René Grousset Memorial Exhibition at the Musée Cernuschi in Paris; to an important ethnological exhibition at the De Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco; and to a number of other places. Fifty-seven loans were sent out in all, and the increase in this number—each of which represents somebody outside Toronto interested in exhibiting one or more of our Museum objects—is one of the most notable features of the year.

The Modern European Department this year saw the resignation of Mr. Stones from the curatorship; this position has not yet been filled. There have also been changes among junior members of the staff, the most important of them being the resignation of Mr. Donald Sutherland from the post of Assistant in the Far Eastern Department.

Research on the Ontario Textile project has continued during the year. The main trips outside Toronto have been to Campbellford and Hastings, on one side, and to Pelee Island on the other.

Lectures have been given in three departments of the University of Toronto; in University Extension courses; and to a number of outside bodies, in particular the Ontario College of Art, the Ryerson Institute, and the Toronto School of Design.

Principal acquisitions include a stone sculpture from a cave temple at Tien

Lung Shan in Shansi Province, China, dating from the eighth century A.D., the gift of the Reuben Wells Leonard Fund; three Japanese Buddhist priest robes, the gift of Mrs. Edgar J. Stone; ethnographical material from the Yukon, the gift of Mr. D. S. F. Cameron; a bronze scimitar with ivory inlaid handle, Syro-Egyptian, about 1300 B.C.; a painted vase of one rare type from Centuripe, Sicily, second or first century B.C.; six pieces of eighteenth-century porcelain from Meissen, Frankenthal, and Vienna; a white-work christening robe, embroidered and quilted, English, early eighteenth century, the gift of the Misses Ormsby; and a Pennsylvania nineteenth-century hand-woven linen coverlet.

G. BRETT

Report of the Director of the Royal Ontario Museum of Geology and Mineralogy

During the year most of the research of the museum has been on problems associated with Chubb Crater on which a report was written by the Director for the National Geographic Society. He also relocated another suspected meteorite crater in northern Labrador.

With funds made available through the generosity of the trustees of the J. P. Bickell Foundation, the rearrangement and rebuilding of the geology galleries has continued throughout the year. Much of the time was taken for dismantling the previous exhibits. This work has been under the direction of Mr. Tovell, Curator of Geology.

In order to keep part of the geology galleries open to the public, the policy of "industries-sponsored" temporary exhibits was continued. Such an exhibit, executed under the direction of the Curator of Geology in co-operation with Imperial Oil Limited, was opened on November 20, 1953. The exhibit illustrates the geological background of the oil industry.

A portable automatic picture exhibition was put into operation in the mineral gallery. The apparatus was purchased through the Reuben Wells Leonard bequest. At present the pictures are some of those taken by the Director in his study of Chubb Crater. This apparatus also has a sound track which describes each picture.

This year a total of 38 boys and girls, ages eleven to fifteen years, met with Miss Ward, Secretary; Mr. Tovell, Curator of Geology; and Mr. Gorman of the Department of Geological Sciences, University of Toronto, on the first Saturday of each month, October to May. Instruction was given in the various branches of the geological sciences and the final meeting took the form of a field trip to Madoc, Ontario.

In November, 1953, the Geological Society of America and affiliated societies held their annual convention in Toronto for the first time since 1930. Many of the members visited the Museum. Following the formal convention, a number of field trips were offered in neighbouring areas. Dr. Meen, assisted by Mr. Gorman, led one of the excursions to the Wilberforce-Bancroft area on a three-day mineral collecting trip. Mr. Tovell assisted Mr. A. K. Watt of the Ontario Department of Mines in a field trip designed to illustrate the glacial geology of Toronto and surrounding areas.

The Director and Curator of Geology visited the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In addition, the Director visited the Peabody Museum at Yale; the Museum of Science, the Fogg Museum, and the Boston Museum of Fine Art in Boston; the Museum of Natural

History, Chicago; and the Museum of Natural Science, University of Michigan. The Secretary, Miss Muriel Ward, while on vacation and leave of absence, visited several of the museums in Europe.

V. B. MEEN

Report of the Director of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology

The fortieth annual report shows continued and satisfactory progress in the research field of systematic zoology and in gallery displays in our Museum. A measure of this progress may be gathered by comparison with the 1914 report of the late Professor B. A. Bensley to the Board of Governors: "During the past year provision has been made for a zoological section of the Royal Ontario Museum. The area will be used for a collection illustrating the Canadian fauna. A number of new cases, comprising twelve free-standing cases and six table cases, have been provided and a beginning will be made by transferring the entire Canadian collection together with a portion of the cases from the present Biological Museum." At the time this report was presented forty years ago, research collections were practically nonexistent and the principal concern was with gallery displays. Now our research collections, numbering thousands of specimens, are considered the finest in North America and our public exhibits occupy two full galleries. We no longer report such minor acquisitions as "nest and eggs of Mangrove Cuckoo" or "a living tarantula from Toronto," which appeared in the 1914 report. The reason for such omissions in our present-day reports is obvious when one considers that thousands of scientific and gallery specimens are added each year, the importance of which could not be dealt with in the limited space of this brief report.

In last year's report mention was made of important studies which were being carried out by members of the curatorial staff. These studies have been continued and, in addition to the publication of many scientific and popular papers, two important books were produced by the University Press, namely, *Odonata of Canada and Alaska* by Dr. E. M. Walker, Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator of Entomology, and *Freshwater Fishes of Eastern Canada* by Dr. W. B. Scott, Curator of Ichthyology and Herpetology. At this time mention should also be made of the completed manuscript on *North American Moose* by Dr. R. L. Peterson. Mr. L. L. Snyder, Curator of Ornithology, is completing his manuscript on *Arctic Birds*. The publication of these scholarly works is made possible as a result of financial donations from many sources, but particularly from the Carling Conservation Club.

The above publications have appeared, or are in course of completion, as a result of the intensive research work carried out by our curatorial staff based upon our research collections. During the past year approximately nine thousand specimens were added to our permanent research collections. As has been pointed out in previous reports, these scientific collections are used not only by the members of our curatorial staff, but also by graduate students, and by scientists in other institutions throughout the world.

In the report for last year, attention was drawn to the fact that because of the great importance of fisheries research in Canada a definite effort was being made to improve the facilities of our present research collection of fish. Through the generous co-operation of the curators of the other scientific divisions of our Museum, whose divisional budgets were drastically curtailed, it has been possible for us to

improve the housing arrangement of the collection and to modernize the storage methods. During the next academic year the Curator of this Division will report that the collection has been completely rearranged on the new storage shelves.

In co-operation with the federal Department of Fisheries, a permanent exhibit, dealing with the various species of Canadian fish and the fish industry, has been installed in our public galleries. Mr. T. M. Shortt, Chief of the Division of Art and Exhibits, and his staff Mr. A. Reid and Mr. E. Thorn, are to be congratulated on the excellent art work involved in this educational exhibit. Mr. F. Wooding, Director of Information for the federal Department of Fisheries, has been most co-operative; his advice and assistance have been indeed greatly appreciated. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Mr. G. Fairbairn, of the Fairbairn Studios in Ottawa, for his advice and assistance in the production of attractive display cases and murals. This outstanding exhibit will be open to the general public, to the students of the universities, and to research workers, during the next academic year.

During the academic year 1950-1 the Museums of Palaeontology and Zoology were amalgamated so as to form the present Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology. At the time of the amalgamation the Museum Board of Directors requested the services of a specially trained Curator to take charge of the work in vertebrate palaeontology, and, if possible, to specialize in the study of dinosaurs—a subject in which our Museum is outstanding. Mr. Gordon Edmund, a graduate student in the Department of Zoology of our University, was chosen to spend at least two years studying under Dr. Romer at Harvard University. Having completed his graduate studies, it was agreed that he would take over the work of this Division. Mr. Edmund has proved to be a most successful candidate for this position. He has now completed the requirements for the Doctor's degree in vertebrate palaeontology at Harvard University and he will be employed by our Museum as Vertebrate Palaeontologist for the next academic year.

In view of the importance of vertebrate palaeontology in the research work and gallery displays of our Museum, it was agreed that an expedition should be sent to the Badland area of Alberta so as to introduce Mr. Edmund to field work under the guidance of our two very competent technicians, Mr. Levi Sternberg and Mr. Ralph Hornell. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. R. A. Laidlaw, of the Museum Board of Directors, for his most generous donation without which the expedition could not have been arranged. I am certain that this expedition will prove of great benefit in the field of research, and will bring honour to our Museum and to the University.

During the past year the Museum suffered a great loss. Mr. C. E. Hope, Chief Technician in Zoology, passed away in August, 1953. Mr. Hope had been a member of our staff for the past twenty-two years. His technical ability was known throughout the world. Not only was he an outstanding technician but he was also an accomplished amateur ornithologist. The Museum was most fortunate in having on its staff Mr. Elmer Taylor who, during the past year, was appointed Chief Technician in Zoology to take over this technical phase of our Museum's work.

A highly successful field expedition, under the direction of the Curator of Mammalogy, Dr. R. L. Peterson, worked in several regions of eastern Ontario and western Quebec. More than 1000 specimens were collected of which 88 were of the genus *Phenacomys*; only 187 specimens of the genus *Phenacomys* are known to be in existence, and 123 of these are now in our research collection.

Mr. L. L. Snyder, Curator of Ornithology, served his final year as a Member of Council of the American Ornithologists' Union and was appointed to the Committee on the Brewster Memorial Award. Dr. W. B. Scott was appointed a member

of a committee on common and scientific names of fishes of the American Fisheries Society. He was also appointed Technical Director of the Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries. Mr. J. L. Baillie was named to the Committee on Student Awards of the American Ornithologists' Union. Dr. R. L. Peterson was re-elected to the position of Recording Secretary of the American Society of Mammalogists.

F. A. URQUHART

Report of the Supervisor of the Division of Education, Royal Ontario Museum

The importance of the educational role of museums is becoming recognized throughout the world. Museums are more than storehouses. They are centres of culture, sources of knowledge of historical and scientific subjects. These sources need to be interpreted to both children and adults, and each museum has its own method of interpretation. In the Royal Ontario Museum the Division of Education has that privilege and responsibility. Its staff of six trained teachers is particularly fortunate in being able to teach children and adults in the surroundings of an adult museum with a high standard of scholarship.

The major part of the work is with the school children of the Province. Elementary and secondary school trips to the Museum, museum teachers' visits to the classrooms, and the circulation of travelling cases containing museum material are the three means of reaching formal classes.

Each year we assemble a new travelling case or reorganize an old one. This necessitates research in the subject, selecting available material from one of the three Museums, and writing notes at the grade level for which the case is intended. The exhibit, plus the notes, must meet the standards of the Museum concerned. The very informative case on "Eskimo Life" was the new addition this year. Some 19,000 children saw one or two of the twelve exhibits, which were sent to approximately 250 schools that are too distant from Toronto to visit the Royal Ontario Museum itself.

Although our travelling cases are good teaching aids, yet the personal visit of a museum teacher to a classroom is more valuable. During 1953-4, each member of the staff spent two weeks teaching with Museum objects in the classrooms of the County of Renfrew and the District of Cochrane.

Children visiting the Museum can be grouped into two general categories. Those in the Metropolitan area come for a visit of an hour to study one specific topic, while the boys and girls coming from a greater distance want to see as much of the Museum as they can. The museum teachers vary their teaching according to the group.

More than 700 Toronto classes visited the Museum again this year to study a special topic which they had selected in advance, and prepared for with the aid of "Information Sheets" drawn up by the museum teachers. They are given a period of discussion in the gallery, then time to answer a questionnaire or to sketch, thus having an opportunity to examine closely the pertinent displays. This year we were pleased to discover that a great deal of follow-up work has taken place in the classrooms after the Museum visit.

For the concentrated teaching that is given to Toronto classes the Toronto Board of Education pays a grant of \$6600 a year to the Division of Education.

Preliminary discussions have taken place about a proportionate grant from the boards of the Metropolitan area wishing a similar service.

The programme varies for classes coming to the city to spend part of the day. It includes one or two talks or lectures, a lunch period, and free time for the children to explore according to their own interests.

The students from Toronto Teachers' College, as well as from the other provincial Teachers' Colleges, have spent some time with our staff members, observing and discussing ways of using Museum galleries with their future pupils. The students in Furniture Design and Interior Design courses at the Ryerson Institute of Technology were given twenty lectures by one of the members of the Division of Education.

A less formal aspect of the work of the Division may be found in the work with adult groups and the children of the Museum Club. Sunday afternoon film showings of documentary pictures were offered to the public on ten Sundays during the autumn and winter terms. Three Museum Extension courses, given in collaboration with the Department of University Extension, were also offered to adults: "Life and Arts in England-Eighteenth Century," "Exploring Early Canada," and "Treasures of Chinese Art." The Division of Education also co-operated in the planning of a lecture by Mr. Herbert Maryon, a member of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum, on the discoveries of the "Sutton Hoo Ship Burial" which was most enthusiastically received by a large audience.

The Saturday Morning Club again had a successful winter. Fewer members than last year were enrolled, only 150, and it was found that the individual child gained more from the group experience. It should be pointed out that the paid group leaders work closely with the Museum teachers, and give valuable guidance to the young volunteers who help them. We feel that the Saturday Morning Club not only teaches the children to know and enjoy their Museum, but also gives the volunteers, usually teachers in training, College of Art or University students, an ideal opportunity for practice in informal, recreational work. Future leaders need apprenticeship in group work and we are pleased to be able to provide it. The annual grant of \$1000 from the Parks Department of the City of Toronto makes this project possible.

Someone has said that isolation is the occupational disease of museum workers. It is particularly true of museum workers in the educational field in Canada for it is still a young branch of museum work in a country with comparatively young museums. The Division of Education tries to ward off this illness by encouraging wide professional contacts. This year one of the staff was Chairman of the Museums Committee of the Ontario Historical Society, and did an excellent piece of work in helping the committee to organize. Another teacher visited New York City investigating educational techniques and teaching materials of some of the museums there. The Supervisor represented the Royal Ontario Museum at the annual meeting of the Canadian Museums Association in Winnipeg in June, 1954. This summer another staff member will be in England during the British Museums Conference and will represent the Royal Ontario Museum at that time.

None of the above-mentioned work could be carried on without the generous co-operation of many people. To the Directors of the Museums of Archaeology, Geology and Mineralogy, Zoology and Palaeontology, and their staff members go our sincere appreciation. To the Department of Education, inspectors, principals, and teachers go our thanks for making it possible to carry out our travelling programmes. The maintenance and guard staffs of the Royal Ontario Museum have always been most co-operative in assisting the staff of the Division with the physical comforts of the children. To all these people we say "Thank you."

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM ATTENDANCE
July 1, 1953-June 30, 1954

	No. of groups	No. of individuals
A. <i>Using R.O.M. Galleries and Studies</i>		
1. General Public		195,144
2. School Classes		
(a) Toronto	732	24,304
(b) Province		
Museum	901	22,764
Teachers' Trips	326	11,185
(c) R.O.M. Staff	2	52
(d) Unconducted	222	5,033
TOTAL	2,183	63,338
3. <i>Groups other than schools</i>		
(a) Ontario College of Art	493	8,570
(b) Extension	162	7,440
(c) R.O.M. Staff	42	565
(d) Unconducted	67	1,787
(e) University of Toronto	597	8,778
TOTAL	1,361	27,140
B. <i>Using theatre and lecture rooms</i>		
1. University of Toronto	873	80,533
2. R.O.M. Sponsored	19	2,999
3. Un-sponsored	163	38,345
TOTAL	1,055	121,877
C. <i>Using Canadiana Gallery, Archives Building</i>		10,918
SUMMARY		
General public		195,144
School classes	2,183	63,338
Groups other than schools	1,361	27,140
Using theatre and lecture rooms	1,055	121,877
Using Canadiana Gallery, Archives Building		10,918
TOTAL	4,599	418,417

N. E. HEAKES

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